



Emergency Plan Newsletter

South Africa

July issue

Volume 2, Issue 3

2006 PEPFAR ANNUAL MEETING

South Africa's Minister of Health, Dr. Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, opened the 2006 HIV and AIDS Implementers Meeting in Durban on June 12. The meeting, sponsored by the United States, featured partners in the battle against HIV and AIDS through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), as well as other HIV and AIDS program representatives. The

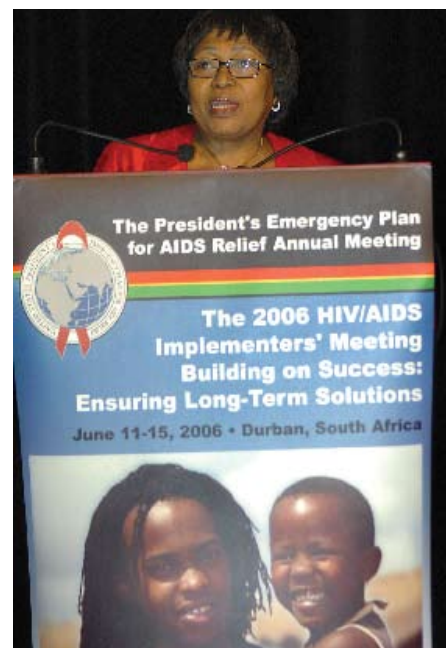
four-day program was attended by over 1200 delegates from around the world to discuss successful initiatives, important new efforts, and areas for possible improvement.

Durban was chosen to host these meetings in recognition of Kwa-Zulu Natal's key role in the battle against HIV and AIDS, and the deepening U.S. partnership with the Government of South Africa through the President's Emergency Plan.



The Minister of Health Dr. Manto Tshabalala-Msimang with Acting U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator Dr. Mark Dybul

The President's Emergency Plan is the most complex and diverse prevention, treatment, and care strategy in the world, and the United States will provide approximately \$3.2 billion (R21 billion) in 2006 to support this effort in



Minister of Health, Dr. Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, opening the HIV & AIDS Implementers Meeting

120 countries around the world. Approximately \$221 million (R1.4 billion) of that sum will be allocated for programs in South Africa.

TB/HIV PROGRAM LAUNCHED

A unique partnership between Life Esidimeni, the Medical Research Council (MRC), Richmond Hospital, and the U.S. President's Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) is resulting in new hope for South Africans suffering from the combined effects of Tuberculosis and HIV.

On March 23, an innovative, comprehensive TB/HIV care program was launched at Life Esidimeni

Richmond Hospital's iThemba Clinic. The program, entitled "That's It" (Tuberculosis, HIV & AIDS Treatment Support and Integrated Therapy), is designed to ensure that patients dually infected with TB and HIV receive a full range of services to address both diseases. The iThemba Clinic at Richmond Hospital will be the focal point

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2006 PEPFAR Annual Meeting

TB/HIV Care Program
Launched

Teachers Caring for Teachers

Success Story: Nompumelelo
and Elihle Xulu

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PEPFAR Calender



The President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief

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TB/HIV CARE PROGRAM LAUNCHED

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of the "That's It" program and will build upon its range of services, including: integrated TB/HIV education efforts; HIV counseling and testing; clinical and nursing care; and referral for associated services such as Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV and AIDS. Life Esidimeni and the Medical Research Council have worked closely with their partners at the Department of Health towards the goal of expanding access to TB and HIV care. Richmond

Hospital is the first TB Hospital in South Africa to routinely offer comprehensive TB/HIV care, including anti-retroviral drugs. The Municipal Mayor of Richmond, Mr. B. Ngongo, and officials from the Department of Health joined representatives of the U.S. Government on March 23 to launch the program. At the launch, U.S. Consul General, Eugene Young, said: "Richmond Hospital is a tangible reminder of the devastating consequences that result when TB and HIV come together to menace us. At the same time, the work that you are launching to-



Actors performing a play at the TB/HIV Care Program launch

day is an even more compelling example of ways in which we can all take action by standing up and implementing innovative approaches to address the dual epidemics."

TEACHERS CARING FOR TEACHERS

The Prevention, Care and Treatment Access (PCTA) program is an alliance of eight SA and US non-government organizations and is a unique HIV and AIDS prevention, testing and treatment program that directly involves more than 10,000 educators.

The program is a bold response to South African research which showed that approximately 4,000 educators in South Africa lost their lives to HIV-related illnesses in 2004. It is expected to significantly alter the impact of the HIV and AIDS pandemic on the education sector and has been called "a health investment with massive returns".

Building on 10 years of collaboration between South African and US educator unions, the PCTA program is led by the Solidarity Center/South Africa and includes the four national teacher unions, the Tshepang Trust (the South Africa Medical Associations' initiative for clinical management of HIV and AIDS), the American Federation of Teachers Educational Foundation and the Academy for Educational Development.

The program provides antiretroviral treatment to qualifying HIV-infected educators, but also focuses firmly on prevention, counselling, testing and care. Tshepang Trust has recruited a network of 130 private doctors and nurses to provide testing, counselling, treatment and palliative care. Ten thousand classroom teachers have been trained to facilitate peer education among their educator colleagues in schools throughout the provinces.

One educator serving as a Master Trainer in the program, Xoliswa Fana, 41, said the initiative has given her the opportunity to share the knowledge she gained since her HIV diagnosis in 2001. Another member, Fana, a Grade 5 educator at Idyoki Senior Primary School in the Eastern Cape said: "The programme has opened a lot of people's eyes. People now have someone to come to if they need help,

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A woman in a blue t-shirt is standing in front of a chalkboard. The chalkboard has the text "Get Tested", "Get Treated", and "Live Healthy" written on it. Below the chalkboard, there is a banner that says "FREE Testing Treatment Your own Private Doctor" and "CALL TOLL-FREE HOTLINE: 0860 888 4673 / SMS: 082 574 5442".



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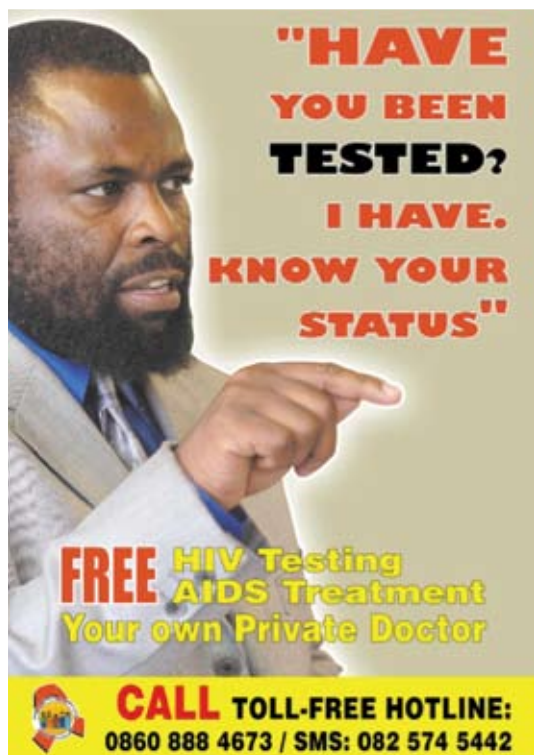
TEACHERS CARING FOR TEACHERS

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and they can call the Teacher Testing Treatment HOTLINE (0860 TTT HOPE) which assures confidentiality and provides all sorts

of information that they wouldn't have gotten otherwise; things like HIV and AIDS and the law."

At the launch, last October on World Teacher Day, Willy Madi-sha, President of the South African Democratic Teachers' Union (SADTU), said "Unifying the unions in the battle against HIV and AIDS is paramount, considering the disease is devastating the ranks of our membership. South African teachers are being ravaged by AIDS. We are facing a crisis in our education system of immense proportions." Also at the launch, Dr Kgosi Letlape, SA Medical Association Chairperson and Director of Tshepang Trust, said "This way we are going to keep teachers alive, so the entire country can enjoy the benefit of their talent and skills."



Transforming Health Care Through Leadership

The Second Annual Conference of the South African Institute of Health Care Managers (SAIHCM)

7-8 September 2006

Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg

Tracks

Revitalisation of Public Sector Hospitals

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Leadership through Science & Technology

Health related legislation

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tel: 0861 115 182

fax: 0861 115 181

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www.saihcm.co.za

NOMPUMELELO AND ELIHLE XULU

Sinikithemba, a Zulu word for "Give us Hope," is situated in the centre of Durban, the largest city in Kwa-Zulu Natal, the South African province with the highest HIV prevalence in the country and one of the world's worst-affected AIDS areas. McCord Hospital established the Sinikithemba HIV and AIDS Care Centre in 1996 to provide a range of medical and support services to assist HIV infected and affected people and their families.

Three-year-old Elihle Xulu shrieks with delight when he sees his mother, Nompumelelo. She kicks a soccer ball for him on Sini-



kithemba Centre's lawn and he runs panting after it. Then he plants himself on the swing and urges her to: "Push! Push!" The little boy's exuberance is a miracle for 27-year-old Nompumelelo, who feared she might never see her son grow up. The two are very close. Elihle has never known his father who died in a car crash when Nompumelelo was five months pregnant. "There was a woman in the car with him when he died. So I thought I needed to have an HIV

test. I started to have a skin rash. So I took courage and went to get a test," says Nompumelelo quietly.

"My son was only seven months old. It was a very big shock when I discovered I was positive. I just cried and cried. I never told anybody. I thought I was going to die," she says. Nompumelelo hid her HIV status from her family for months. But she worried for her son's health and, as she had no income, she decided to disclose her HIV status to her boyfriend's sister and ask her for help.

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NOMPUMELELO AND ELIHLE XULU

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"I had been living with my partner while I was studying for a science degree, so I was not earning money. My partner's sister put Elihle on medical aid. Then I went to get him tested. I was devastated when he was also positive. I wasn't expecting it. There were those little signs. He had thrush (yeast/fungal infections of the mouth or genitals caused by Candida), diarrhea and a skin rash. The doctor did try to warn me because of the symptoms; but I really was not expecting it."

Thanks to the medical aid, Elihle was able start taking antiretroviral (ARV) drugs right away. "Since he started his ARVs, he has never been in hospital. Last year, my sister got tuberculosis (TB), then I got it and so did Elihle. But now he is taking TB treatment and ARVs and he is fine." While Elihle was on ARVs, there was no money for treatment for Nompumelelo.

By the time she had a CD4 test in January 2004, Nompumelelo's CD4 count was a mere five. "My son's medical aid was cut off. I knew that Elihle couldn't stop his medicine. So I had to tell my mother. She was very upset and cried; but then my mother's friend told us about McCord Hospital, so we started coming here."

A few months after her CD4 test, Nompumelelo got pneumonia and spent a month recovering, first at McCord, then at a hospice called the Dream Centre. "I weighed less than 100 lbs and had skin rashes which made me look very dark and blemishes on my arms before I finally started taking ARVs. I took Stocrin (efavirenz) and Zerit (d4T) and 3TC; for the first two months I felt very dizzy, but now everything is normal.

My son and I take our medicine at 7am and 7pm every day."

After dreading to tell people that she was living with HIV, Nompumelelo says she is now completely honest with everyone – and she encourages her friends and three sisters to be extra careful in their relationships. "I counsel my sisters and my friends about HIV. I am used to it now. I don't believe that this virus will kill me now. It is just there and something that I have to cope with. When I quit studying after I tested positive, my life just stopped. I thought why should I look for a job when I am going to die? But now that I am well again and I have gained some weight and look better, I have started to look for work."

Nompumelelo and Elihle's antiretroviral treatment (ART) is funded by the President's Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF).

NOTICE BOARD

Public Affairs Section

The Embassy's Public Affairs Section has established provisional dates for partner media skills and success story training, listed below. The training is designed to introduce partner representatives to the fundamentals of dealing with the media, including creating press releases and managing media events. In addition, there will be practical sessions on interview skills, photography, and drafting of success stories. All partners are invited to send a representative or representatives. To reserve a place for one of these sessions, please contact Mark Schlachter (schlachtmm@state.gov) or Sindi Zwane (zwanesx@state.gov), tel: 012-431-4386.

July 24-25

Nelspruit

August 21-22

Durban

August 7-8

Bloemfontein



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July 2006

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| July 11 - 14 | Department of Social Development OVC Meeting, Durban |
| July 24 - 25 | Media Training, Nelspruit |
| July 26 | Prevention Meeting, Johannesburg |
| July 26 | New Partner Meeting, Johannesburg |
| July 27 - 28 | All Partners Meeting, Johannesburg |

August 2006

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| August 4 - 7 | Partner's Data Warehouse Training, Johannesburg |
| August 7 - 8 | Media Training, Durban |
| August 24 | Information from the Country Operational Plan due from Partners |

September 2006

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| September 29 | FY07 Country Operational Plan due to Office of Global AIDS Coordinator |
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